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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/841,038	04/25/2001	Fujio Morita	1614.1163	6609
21171	7590	05/06/2004		
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			EXAMINER FLEURANTIN, JEAN B	
			ART UNIT 2172	PAPER NUMBER //

DATE MAILED: 05/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/841,038

Applicant(s)

MORITA, FUJIO

Examiner

Jean B Fleurantin

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2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL.
- 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10.

- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This is in response to the amendment filed on February 23, 2004, in which claims 1-12 remain pending for examination. Examiner discusses the limitations of claim 12 in the following rejection.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The references cited in the information disclosure statement (IDS) filed on March 11, 2004, comply with the provisions of MPEP 609. It has been placed in the application file. The information referred to therein has been considered as to merits.

Drawings

3. Examiner accepts the drawings include changes to 1-3B.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. See MPEP § 2172.01. The preamble of claim 12 recites a method for searching, however, the claim limitations provide only a step for registering keywords, there is no indication on how the claimed method for searching is performed. The omitted step is “a search unit”.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable by U.S. Patent No. 6,061,738 issued to Osaku (hereinafter “Osaku”).

As per claim 12, Osaku discloses, “a method for searching for an address of desired information on a network based on search information associated with the desired information”, (see col. 8, lines 40-47), the method comprising:

“registering predetermined search information (see fig. 14, elements 292, 294, 296) used as a keyword for searching for the address of the desired information on the network for each of a plurality of categories into which information is classified” as simplified network address is input to the client for a network accessible resource is first passed to the client search engine which uses the simplified network address as a search key for searching the selected

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correspondence relations located on the client cache, if a correspondence relation matching the key is located on the cache, in which the client search engine returns a corresponding URL, which in the present example we assume is URL2. Having found a corresponding URL within the client cache, the client uses the URL2 to form a network access command <http://URL2/> which is addressed to a network resource having a copy of a network file corresponding to the simplified network address input by the user, (see Osaku col. 9, lines 20-39), and column 8, lines 39-58.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Related Art (hereinafter "Related Art") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,061,738 issued to Osaku (hereinafter "Osaku").

As per claim 1, Related Art discloses, "a search unit that determines a category of an address designated for registration based on a definition entry and a selection record of a menu", (see figure 1, page 2, lines 26-32); and

"a registration unit that registers an address in the category", (see figure 1, element S16, page 3, line 30 to page 4, line 1),

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“wherein predefined search information is registered for each category”, (see page 4, lines 31-34). Related Art does not explicitly disclose a search support device in which an address indicating a location of information accessible on a network is registered, and predetermined search information is used as a keyword for searching for the address indicating a location of desired information accessible on the network. However, Osaku discloses when a simplified network address is input to the client for a network accessible resource is first passed to the client search engine which uses the simplified network address as a search key for searching the selected correspondence relations located on the client cache, if a correspondence relation matching the key is located on the cache, in which the client search engine returns a corresponding URL, which in the present example we assume is URL2. Having found a corresponding URL within the client cache, the client uses the URL2 to form a network access command <http://URL2/> which is addressed to a network resource having a copy of a network file corresponding to the simplified network address input by the user, (see Osaku col. 9, lines 20-39), and column 8, lines 39-58. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the combined teachings of Related Art and Osaku. Such modification would allow the teachings of Related Art and Osaku to provide novel methods and systems for accessing a network URL through pre-assigned simplified network addresses, (see Osaku col. 1, line 66 to col. 2, line 1).

As per claim 2, Related Art discloses, “wherein the registration unit registers the address designated for registration in the category containing the registered address the registered address

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when located at the same level as the address designated for registration”, (see page 4, lines 15-19).

As per claim 3, in addition to claim 1, Related Art discloses, “determining a category of an address designated for registration based on a definition entry and a selection record of a menu”, (see page 4, line 11 to page 5, line 2).

As per claim 4, in addition to claim 1, Related Art discloses, “a category menu storage unit that stores a category menu in which predetermined categories are listed up” as the information including the URL address of each registered homepage is registered as the list of registered bookmarks, (see figure 3, page 4, lines 15-19).

As per claim 5, in addition to claims 1 and 3, Related Art further discloses, “a display unit that displays an address in another form indicating the location of desired information detected based on the search information generated by the search information generating unit”, (see figures 2 and 3, page 2, line 26 to page 3, line 22).

As per claim 6, Related Art further discloses, “an address selection unit that selects the address registered in the category menu so as to make an access to the location of the desired information”, (see figures 2 and 3, page 2, line 26 to page 3, line 22).

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As per claim 7, Related Art discloses, “an icon conversion unit that visually changes the category in which the address is registered by the address registration unit” (see figures 2 and 3, page 2, line 26 to page 3, line 22).

As per claim 8, in addition to claim 1, Related Art discloses, “storing a category menu in which predetermined categories are listed up” as the information including the URL address of each registered homepage is registered as the list of registered bookmarks, (see figure 3, page 4, lines 15-19).

As per claim 9, in addition to claim 1, Related Art discloses, “a procedure for classifying the address in accordance with a category related to information that can be accessed at the address”, (see page 4, line 11 to page 5, line 2).

“a procedure for registering the address classified in accordance with the category”, (see figure 1, element S16, page 3, line 30 to page 4, line 1).

As per claim 10, in addition to claim 1, Related Art discloses, “a procedure for generating search information associated with a category selected from the category menu” as the information including the URL address of each registered homepage is registered as the list of registered bookmarks, (see figure 3, page 4, lines 15-19); and

“a procedure for registering the address classified in accordance with the category”, (see figure 1, element S16, page 3, line 30 to page 4, line 1).

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As per claim 11, Related Art discloses, "wherein the program further includes a procedure for generating the category menu", (see figure 3(A, B).

CONTACT INFORMATION

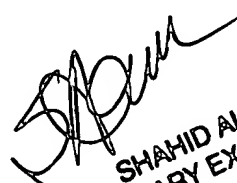
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jean B Fleurantin whose telephone number is 703-308-6718. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John B Breene can be reached on 703-305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Jean Bolte Fleurantin

April 22, 2004


SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER